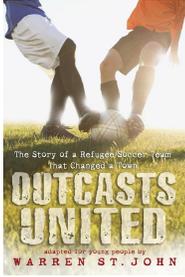


Books by the Stack



***Outcasts United: The Story of A Refugee Soccer Team* by Warren St. John**

This young people's version of the adult bestseller, *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*, is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical southern town until it became a refugee resettlement center. The author explores how the community changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Luma Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community.

Why you'll like it: Inspirational. Complex. Fascinating. Thought-Provoking.

About the Author: Warren St. John has written for the New York Observer, The New Yorker, Wired and Slate, in addition to his work as a reporter for The New York Times. His first book, *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Journey into the Heart of Fan Mania* (2004), was named one of *Sports Illustrated's* best books of the year, and ranked number one on *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of the best books ever written about collegiate athletics. His second book, *Outcasts United: An American Town, A Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference* was published in the U.S. in April 2009, and subsequently in the U.K., The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Japan and China. St. John was born in Birmingham, Alabama, where he attended The Altamont School. He studied English literature at Columbia College in New York City, where he now lives with his wife and daughter.

Questions for Discussion

1. Has the book *Outcasts United* given you a better understanding of the lives of refugees? Did it change your opinions on refugees? If so, how?
2. Does *Outcasts United* fall into your normal reading patterns? How is this book similar or different to what you normally read?
3. What were some of the hardships that refugees faced before coming to America? What about after they got here?
4. What preconceptions do you think refugees brought with them about America? How was the reality of their new country different than their expectations?
5. How did the members of the Fugees build community after coming to Clarkston?
6. Talk about Clarkston, Georgia before the refugee settlement. How did it change after the refugee settlement was established?

7. Why was Clarkston chosen for the refugee settlement?
8. What were the different reactions from residents about the settlement? Did anyone's opinions of the refugee settlement change over time?
9. Were the refugees all one ethnicity and religion? How did varied ethnic and religious backgrounds affect the refugee community as a whole?
- 10.
11. What are some of the struggles with identity that the refugees faced in *Outcasts United*? What are some of the struggles with identity that long-term Clarkston faced in *Outcasts United*?

(Questions issued by MPPL.org)

